U4510-1-29-U

CAWP Fact Sheet

Center for the American Woman and Politics
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WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1990

In 1990, **1,273**, or **17.1%**, of the 7,461 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 267, or 13.4%, of the 1,995 state senate seats and 1,006, or 18.4%, of the 5,466 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quadrupled.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1969	301	4.0
1971	344	4.5
1973	424	5.6
1975	604	8.0
1977	688	9.1
1979	770	10.3
1981	908	12.1
1983	991	13.3
1985	1,103	14.8
1987	1,170	15.7
1989	1,270	17.0
1990	**1,273**	**17.1**

The **party breakdown** for women serving in state legislatures in 1990 is:

	Total Legislatures		State Senates		State Houses	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	746	58.6	160	60.0	586	58.3
Republicans	517	40.6	97	36.3	420	41.8
Nonpartisans*	10	0.8	10	3.8	------	------
Total	1,273	100.0	267	100.1	1,006	100.1

The ten states with the **highest percentages** of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Vermont	33.3	Colorado	29.0
New Hampshire	32.1	Wisconsin	25.8
Maine	31.2	Kansas	25.5
Arizona	30.0	Idaho	24.6
Washington	29.3	Hawaii	23.7

The ten states with the **lowest percentages** of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Louisiana	2.1	Arkansas	7.4
Alabama	5.7	Oklahoma	8.7
Mississippi	5.8	South Carolina	8.8
Kentucky	5.8	Tennessee	9.9
Pennsylvania	6.7	Georgia	10.2

Every state has at least three women in its state house, and only one state (Louisiana) has no women in its state senate.

Two women are **speakers of houses** in 1990: Representative Jane Hull (R-AZ) and Representative Vera Katz (D-OR).

The **first** woman to serve in a state legislature was Martha Hughes Canon; she was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1896.

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*In Nebraska, where the legislature is unicameral, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

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STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE D	SENATE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE D	HOUSE R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
AL	49	0	1	1/35	7	0	7/105	8/140	5.7
AK	16+	1	3	4/20	4	4	8/ 40	12/ 60	20.0
AZ	4	2	3	5/30	9	13	22/ 60	27/ 90	30.0
AR	45	2	0	2/35	7	1	8/100	10/135	7.4
CA	27	3	2	5/40	7	7	14/ 80	19/120	15.8
CO	6	2	5	7/35	9	13	22/ 65	29/100	29.0
CT	14	4	3	7/36	19	15	34/151	41/187	21.9
DE	26	2	2	4/21	2	4	6/ 41	10/ 62	16.1
FL	25	7	3	10/40	8	8	16/120	26/160	16.3
GA	41	1	1	2/56	18	4	22/180	24/236	10.2
HI	10	6	1	7/25	10	1	11/ 51	18/ 76	23.7
ID	9	5	4	9/42	6	16	22/ 84	31/126	24.6
IL	20	6	6	12/59	9	12	21/118	33/177	18.6
IN	33	6	5	11/50	4	6	10/100	21/150	14.0
IA	24	3	3	6/50	13	6	19/100	25/150	16.7
KS	8	5	4	9/40	16	17	33/125	42/165	25.5
KY	47	2	0	2/38	3	3	6/100	8/138	5.8
LA	50	0	0	0/39	3	0	3/105	3/144	2.1
ME	3	5	5	10/35	29	19	48/151	58/186	31.2
MD	12	7	1	8/47	31	4	35/141	43/188	22.9
MA	23	3	2	5/40	22	7	29/160	34/200	17.0
MI	30	1	1	2/38	12	8	20/110	22/148	14.9
MN	21	6	4	10/67	17	10	27/134	37/201	18.4
MS	48	2	1	3/52	7	0	7/122	10/174	5.8
MO	31	1	1	2/34	19	8	27/163	29/197	14.7
MT	22	5	1	6/50	16	5	21/100	27/150	18.0
NE	15	NONPARTISAN		10/49	UNICAMERAL			10/ 49	20.4
NV	13	2	2	4/21	8	2	10/ 42	14/ 63	22.2
NH	2	2	4	6/24	48	82	130/400	136/424	32.1
NJ	38	2	1	3/40	4	6	10/ 80	13/120	10.8
NM	34	3	1	4/42	5	6	11/ 70	15/112	13.4
NY	37	5	1	6/61	14	3	17/150	23/211	10.9
NC	32	2	2	4/50	12	8	20/120	24/170	14.1
ND	29	3	2	5/53	10	9	19/106	24/159	15.1
OH	35	1	2	3/33	11	3	14/ 99	17/132	12.9
OK	44	5	1	6/48	6	1	7/101	13/149	8.7
OR	16+	6	1	7/30	6	5	11/ 60	18/ 90	20.0
PA	46	2	0	2/50	7	8	15/203	17/253	6.7
RI	28	5	4	9/50	11	3	14/100	23/150	15.3
SC	43	1	1	2/46	10	3	13/124	15/170	8.8
SD	19	6	1	7/35	6	7	13/ 70	20/105	19.1
TN	42	1	1	2/33	4	7	11/ 99	13/132	9.9
TX	40	2	1	3/31	11	5	16/150	19/181	10.5
UT	36	1	0	1/29	5	6	11/ 75	12/104	11.5
VT	1	6	0	6/30	30	24	54/150	60/180	33.3
VA	39	2	1	3/40	8	4	12/100	15/140	10.7
WA	5	5	5	10/49	22	11	33/ 98	43/147	29.3
WV	18	6	1	7/34	16	3	19/100	26/134	19.4
WI	7	1	3	4/33	18	12	30/ 99	34/132	25.8
WY	11	4	0	4/30	7	11	18/ 64	22/ 94	23.4
TOTALS		160	97	267/1,995	586	420	1,006/5,466	1,273/7,461	17.1

(10 nonpartisans)

+ States with the same percentage are given the same rank

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